(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, India is in the process of formulating a policy of stem cell research. At present the Draft National Guidelines are being finalized jointly by the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Department of Biotechnology based on which the policy will evolve.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, Experts were invited from USA to discuss setting up of current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) facility in January, 2006, potential applications of mesenchymal stem cells in September 2005 and for clinical trial workshop in June, 2005.

Earthquake prediction

1113. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether French, Japanese and few other countries' scientists have been applying satellite data for earthquake prediction;

(b) if so, whether there is a need for disaster prediction, prevention and mitigation;

(c) if so, whether Government have any plan for development of warning system; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The satellite data has been used by geoscientists in different countries in research and development related to earthquakes. Satellite data has proved inadequate in earthquake prediction. However, at present there is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world to predict the occurrence of earthquake with reasonable degree of accuracy in terms of space, time and magnitude. However, losses due to earthquake may be considerably reduced through proper planning and adoption of building codes prepared by Bureau of Indian Standards.

(c) and (d) At present the scientific knowledge for predicting earthquakes is inadequate. It is not feasible to establish a warning system for earthquakes.